



Alaskan Way Viaduct Inspection Results - FAQ

What did the survey find?

According to the results of the inspection completed last week, two sections of the viaduct have settled another ¼ inch in the vicinity near Columbia and Yesler Street across from the driving entrance to Colman Dock.

How is the survey conducted? Can you tell if the viaduct has definitively moved?

It is a manual survey conducted by engineers with survey poles. Permanent survey markers have been placed on the viaduct to facilitate a consistent reading. In addition to the survey work, one crack monitor indicated that a crack has widened by less than a millimeter since Fall 2004.

Is that dangerous?

No. The amount of settling that has occurred is not enough to lead to any operational changes at this time.

How much has this section moved in total? Is repair work needed?

This section of the viaduct has moved about 4 ¼ inches since we began inspections four years ago after the Nisqually earthquake. If it moves a total of 6 inches, emergency repairs will be required. WSDOT has completed nearly all the preliminary design work to construct an emergency interim repair, although one is not needed at this time. WSDOT engineers are working to determine when this might occur.

How much will the emergency repair cost?

Probably in the \$2 million to \$2.5 million range.

Would the viaduct be closed for this repair?

Not likely. All the work would occur at or under the ground level.

Is there a weight restriction on the viaduct?

Yes. Only vehicles that are "legal loads" are allowed on the viaduct. That means nothing over 105,500 pounds. All trucks must stay in the right lane.